

COUNTRY East Germany Approved For Release 2001/11/21 : CIA-RDP80-00810A000500050000-8

TOPIC Military Information from Jena

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT 6 December 1952 to 10 January 1953

DATE OBTAINED 25X1A DATE PREPARED 5 February 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. Prior to 10 January 1953, the Loebstedter Kaserne in Jena was occupied by an estimated 1,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. On 9 December, 5 T-34 tanks towing 2 AT guns were seen leaving the installation. Subsequently, 1 officer, 2 NCOs and 57 EM armed with rifles and 2 heavy machine guns left toward the firing range. Truck loaded with food containers and truck loaded with lumber left the installation toward the airfield at about 1 p.m. At 9:30 a.m. on 21 December, the unit fell in without arms for a ceremony in the barracks yard. The unit was estimated to number at least 1,500 soldiers and 33 officers. Fifteen T-34 tanks, 11 SU-100 guns, 16 x about 80-mm AT guns and 2 rocket launchers were lined up in the barracks yard. The unit was addressed by several officers. Subsequently, 4 officers, 11 NCOs and 23 EM stepped out from the ranks and received something which source could not determine. After the ceremony, the troops returned to their quarters. At 9:30 a.m. on 30 December, about 140 troops were seen at physical training. A T-34 tank entered the installation, coming from the direction of the town. On the rear of the tank was a pneumatic raft. At about 11:30 a.m. on 5 January, 8 T-34 tanks without numbers entered the installation, coming from the direction of the airfield.
2. Prior to 10 January, the barracks installation in Zwaetzen was occupied by at least 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank insignia. On 9 December, two SU-100 guns, on which about 30 to 35 soldiers practiced mounting and dismounting, were in the barracks yard. Vehicles were being maintained in the garages. On 11 December, 3 officers, 12 NCOs and 30 EM with rucksacks and baggage marched to the station and boarded a train consisting of an undetermined number of coaches and 27 boxcars which were occupied by an undetermined number of soldiers. The train came from the direction of Weimar and left toward Gera. On 21 December, a ceremony took place in the barracks installation in Zwaetzen. When the troops broke ranks, source counted 28 officers

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

25X1A

- 2 -

and estimated the number of soldiers at about 1,200. Eighteen SU-100 guns and 3 T-34 tanks were in the barracks yard. Three radio trucks and two 25-mm AA guns were also seen. On 5 January, training was observed in the garages. A T-34 tank was in the barracks yard. Truck [REDACTED] entered the installation.

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3. Source expressed the belief that the Forst Kaserne was occupied only by a large detail. The barracks gate was generally locked. Very few vehicles and soldiers on foot were observed. At about 11 a.m. on 15 December, individual reports of guns were heard from the barracks area. [REDACTED] a heavy detonation followed by three lighter ones. The barracks installation, on that day, was heavily guarded within a radius of 500 meters by guards who were commanded by an officer. According to rumors among the population, the explosion killed several Russians.

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4. Prior to 10 January, the Polizei Kaserne was occupied by a signal unit of at least 360 soldiers. On 17 December, the radio mast on the roof of the installation was being exchanged. At about 9:15 a.m., 1 officer, 2 NCOs and 31 EM equipped with five field telephones, rods and cable reels left the installation toward Forst. In the barracks yard, 55 soldiers with rifles practiced laying down and extended order. On 21 December, 8 officers and 360 troops attended a ceremony in the barracks yard. The troops were addressed by an officer [REDACTED] in the barracks installation in Zwaetzen. Eight radio trucks were in the barracks yard. On 7 January, 80 soldiers were drilling and 30 soldiers with signal equipment left the installation.

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5. Between 10 a.m. and noon on 20 December, about 150 troops organized in groups of 12 to 15 men and including some wearing tank insignia were seen at a simulated attack in the Woelnitz meadows. Five of the groups were armed with machine guns. At about 8:30 a.m. on 3 January, about 100 troops wearing parkas practiced AA firing with machine guns and rifles. Between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. on 10 January, a column of 11 trucks and 21 tanks was seen en route toward Kahla, coming from the direction of the barracks installations.

6. Three of the buildings at the airfield were especially heavily guarded. Local residents stated that ammunition was stored there. The building on the street allegedly was a ration supply depot. On 27 December, trucks [REDACTED] were loaded there with vegetables, bread and uniforms.

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7. Documents found on 6 December included a list for an arms inspection of a 4th Battery of a 2d Arty Bn; and an envelope addressed to a soldier [REDACTED] examined by Censorship Office [REDACTED] and mailed in Rubtsovka, Altai Krai. 1

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8. No Soviet troops were quartered in the agricultural school. The installation was occupied by the Institut fuer Pflanzenforschung (Horticultural Institute). 2

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SECRET

25X1A

- 3 -

25X1A

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1. Comment. [REDACTED] the 531st Fort Regt (US) of the 20th Gds Mecz Div, which has been carried in Weimar. However, after November 1952, there were no indications of the presence of the regiment in Weimar. [REDACTED] the regiment on a letter found in Jena may be a vague indication that the regiment at present is stationed in Jena.

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2. Comment. The heavy weapons observed on occasion of the ceremonies commemorating Stalin's birthday on 21 December confirm the 66th Gds Mecz Regt with its tank battalion, the 65th Tank Tng Bn (US) and the 24th Gds RL Bn (US) in the barracks installation in Loebstedt; and the 68th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt (US) in the barracks installation in Zwaetzen. The SU-100 guns allegedly observed in both installations probably were SU-249 guns; SU-100 guns were seen only on a few occasions. The information on the Polizei Kaserne on Rathenau Strasse is the first detailed information obtained on this installation. It may be occupied by the unidentified signal battalion of the 20th Gds Mecz Div, which, according to vague indications, has been carried in the barracks installation in Zwaetzen. In addition to the known ammunition depot, the Roedigen airfield installations appear to house also the ration supply and clothing depots of the 20th Gds Mecz Div. According to information in the fall of 1951, elements of the Hq 20th Gds Mecz Div were believed stationed in the agricultural school. However, no confirmation of this assumption has been obtained.

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